

7 April 1967

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Training

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FROM : [REDACTED] OTR/IS/OBF, Room 1 D 1617, Ext. [REDACTED]
SUBJECT : Report on Completion of Vietnam Orientation No. 14,
20 - 24 March 1967

1. Basic Data

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[REDACTED] persons, including 3 girls, completed the 14th running of the Vietnam Orientation, which was held 20 - 24 March 1967 in Room 1 A 07 at Headquarters.

No course ever runs as scheduled, and so these changes occurred:

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a. [REDACTED] briefing took place on 21 March at 1:30.

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b. The Panel on Living Conditions consisted of Messrs [REDACTED] 25X1A9a
and [REDACTED] who were absent because of illness.

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c. Illness also brought about the replacement of Mr. [REDACTED] 25X1A9a
by Mr. [REDACTED]

2. Highlights

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The overflow crowd that showed up for the briefing by Mr. John [REDACTED] Chief of Vietnam Station, indicated that this was a session of great interest not only to the class but also to many people in FE/ [REDACTED] 25X1A8a
[REDACTED] gave a reasonably encouraging view of the war in Vietnam, belabored the reporting by the press, stressed the necessary flexibility followed in the assignment of jobs to new personnel and assured such personnel that the work schedule in Saigon was not a 7 day but a 6½ day schedule.

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3. Critiques

Three points are worth making:

a. The critiques, which have been circulated to FE, [REDACTED] continue to speak most favorably of the Orientation. "Get some new movies" is the nearest thing to an adverse comment. (I could assure the writer that I am constantly on the lookout for new films.) Other more typical comments are these:

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"As a recent CTP the course is one of the best I have ever attended."

"Having been in Vietnam before, I was surprised to find how worthwhile the course was--as a refresher in my case, mostly, though it was also valuable to learn of all the changes since I was there...I'd say don't monkey with success."

"I enjoyed the professionalism of the course."

"I feel that the course is vital for anyone going to Vietnam..."

"Very good. The course certainly is a concerted effort to cover as many significant aspects as might reasonably be expected."

b. Several critiques continue, of course, to suggest inclusion of other topics or more on topics that are included. Generally people want to hear more about what other U.S. agencies are doing in Vietnam, more on our Support activities, operations in the provinces, and more on "Dos and Don'ts" relative to dealing with the Vietnamese. These suggestions are always kept in mind in planning the Orientation and honored wherever time and personnel make it possible.

c. The critiques continue to speak highly of the quality of our lecturers who are described as "interesting," "obviously knowledgeable," "very informative," "articulate." Among those singled out for honorable mention are Messrs. [REDACTED] Marsh (of State), [REDACTED]

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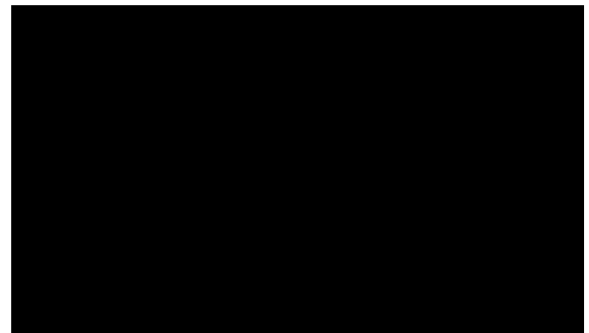
On the other hand, there are duds, and none knows it better than I. The critiques specifically mention them, and do so, sometimes, in what I consider an unkindly or unfair manner. For instance, "Do not use bored, dull, and difficult to understand instructors like _____ and _____;" and "Tell _____ to cut out the malarkey, reduce the length of his harangue by half." (The last comment might be unkind but I must say that it is not unfair.)

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Incidentally I refrain from including the names of individuals adversely commented upon, inasmuch as the comments are intended for my use, and I do use them as guidance and evaluation. I see no justification for broadcasting what I take to be confidential and personal evaluations of people who are not paid to be and do not claim to be public speakers. There are others, especially perhaps in OTR, who have a legitimate interest in some of these evaluations, but what, if any, channel exists for directing this information to them I do not know.

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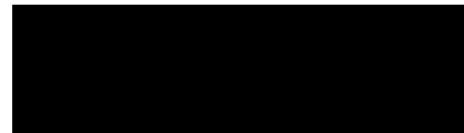
Chief, Orientation and
Briefing Faculty

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Reference - last paragraph above

I realize the problems of getting consistently good speakers for a specialized program such as this, but this shouldn't stop us from trying. I've asked Tom to report to me regularly on poor speakers -- so appropriate action can be taken. I agree that these situations should be handled delicately and informally whenever possible. My own impression is that the great majority of speakers are doing a fine job - as is Tom!



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Concuer.
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